

From: Andrew Bradley
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 2:14pm
Subject: A fair future for Microsoft.

IMHO, the problem stems from MS being unclear on the distinction between operating system and software applications in its business model.

How about this: the OS side of Microsoft must have freely available APIs and no OS feature development be tied to any application being co9ncurrently developed by MS. Not quite open source, but so that any developer can access any or all of the OS1s features. The application development side of the Microsoft can be as secret as they please, since in effect they would be nothing but a developer for their own OS.

As new capabilities are added to the OS side of MS, they must be made available to all developers, including MS1s application development, simultaneously. No cooperation between application development and OS development sides of the business. Eliminate the hand-in-hand development of applications and OS features that support them.

MS1s advantage is that it had a head start in developing applications that take advantage of its own OS1s features. Take away that head start and it is nothing more than a company that sells an OS , as well as some applications for that, and other, OSs.

For example, the MS applications side make a 3feature request² to the OS side. So can any external developer. The OS side adds or changes the OS to accommodate any or all developers1 requests. A new OS version is released, with equal access to new features by all developers. Then, and only then, can the application side of MS can develop software versions to take advantage of the new OS. At the same time, so can other developers. Equal competition by all developers, and 3freedom to innovate² is retained. Developers can write for MS, or any other OS for that matter, on a level playing field.

There you have my two cents1 worth. Thank you for taking the time.

Respectfully,
Andrew Bradley